



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to using stolen lists of names and Social Security numbers to purchase Wal-Mart gift cards.

Delana K. Pickens, 31, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to two counts of identity theft.

Pickens admitted that she stole 10 pages of personal identification information from her former employer, Caremark, a Lee's Summit business, where she trained people to work as customer service representatives. On Oct. 21, 2002, **Pickens** distributed those names and Social Security numbers to another person. The list, Graves said, included dozens of customers whose information was on file at Caremark. Neither Caremark nor those customers authorized the transfer of that information.

Pickens gave the information to another person, Graves explained, knowing that it would be used to illegally obtain instant credit accounts at Wal-Mart stores.

In today's plea agreement, **Pickens** acknowledged that the total loss to the victims of her criminal activity exceeded \$120,000.

Under federal statutes, **Pickens** could be subject to a sentence of up to 30 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$500,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was investigated by the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow